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Music for All Announces Ensembles Invited to Participate in National Festival, March 14-16

INDIANAPOLIS – Seventy-one concert bands, orchestras, choirs, percussion ensembles, and chamber ensembles have been selected to perform at the 28th annual Music for All National Festival, presented by Yamaha, March 14-16, 2019 in Indianapolis. Ensembles were selected following a recorded audition process.

The Music for All National Festival showcases the finest high school and middle school music ensembles and student musicians in America, shining a spotlight on outstanding music-making and the importance of music education. Colonel Arnauld Gabriel has called the Festival the “Finest Music Festival in America.” Being invited is the achievement: with no ratings or rankings awarded, the non-competitive Festival provides a supportive environment for cooperative encouragement for all of the ensembles. Evaluators give feedback on the performances, and groups receive a post-concert clinic for future growth, providing an educational experience for both teachers and students. The ensembles also participate in master classes and special events.

The Music for All National Festival takes place in Indianapolis’ finest concert venues, and is comprised of several events: National Concert Band Festival, Orchestra America National Festival, National Choir Festival, Sandy Feldstein National Percussion Festival, Middle School National Music Festival, Chamber Music National Festival, and three national honor ensembles: The Honor Band of America, the Honor Orchestra of America, and the Jazz Band of America.

“The ensembles invited to perform at the Music for All National Festival represent the very best of music education and the pursuit of excellence,” says Debbie Laferty Asbill, Vice President of Marketing and Communications for Music for All. “We are excited to provide this educational performance experience for the students and the opportunity for the directors to have feedback from the most respected conductors and educators.”

The selected ensembles hail from 22 states and Puerto Rico:

National Choir Festival

Arvada West High School Company West - Arvada, CO; Mr. Chris Maunu
Colegio Santa Gema Coro Juvenil Colegio Santa Gema - Carolina, Puerto Rico; Mr. Orlando Alvarado
Cuthbertson High School Ladies Chorus - Waxhaw, NC; Ms. Rachel Waynick
East Jessamine High School Chorale - Nicholasville, KY; Mr. Demetrius Mason-Walker

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East Jessamine Middle School 8th Grade Chorus - Nicholasville, KY; Mr. William Mason-Walker

Glen Cove High School Select Chorale - Glen Cove, NY; Mr. Edward Norris III

Herron High School Concert Choir - Indianapolis, IN; Mr. Jonathan Harris

Liberty High School Women's Ensemble - Colorado Springs, CO; Mr. A. J. Wulf

Ravenwood High School Chamber Choir - Brentwood, TN; Ms. Lauren Ramey

Spencerville Adventist Academy Honors Chorus - Spencerville, MD; Mr. Robert Martinez

TC Williams High School Advanced Choir - Alexandria, VA; Mr. Theodore Thorpe

William Mason High School Honors Concert Choir - Mason, OH; Mr. Jason McKee

Chamber Music National Festival

Birdville High School Saxophone Quartet - North Richland Hills, TX; Mr. Mike Cheripka

Cypress Woods High School Crimson Quintet - Cypress, TX; Mr. Tom Harrington

Franklin High School Flue Ensemble - Franklin, TN; Mr. Jacob Campos

Franklin High School Trombone Ensemble - Franklin, TN; Mr. Jacob Campos

Herricks High School Cello Quartet - New Hyde Park, NY; Ms. Catherine Fish

Herricks High School Clarinet Trio - New Hyde Park, NY; Ms. Catherine Fish

Klein Collins High School String Quartet - Spring, TX; Mr. Carlos Lara

O'Fallon Township High School Flute Quartet - O'Fallon, IL; Dr. Melissa Gustafson-Hinds

O'Fallon Township High School Brass Quintet - O'Fallon, IL; Dr. Melissa Gustafson-Hinds

Oswego High School Clarinet Choir - Oswego, IL; Ms. Stephanie San Roman

Rolling Meadows High School Chamber Orchestra - Rolling Meadows, IL; Mr. Kevin Carroll

Willis High School Trumpet Quartet - Willis, TX; Mr. Chris Allen

Willis High School Wind Ensemble Flute Quartet - Willis, TX; Mr. Chris Allen

Willis High School Low Brass Quartet - Willis, TX; Mr. Chris Allen

Willis High School Wind Ensemble Clarinet Quartet - Willis, TX; Mr. Chris Allen

Orchestra America National Festival

Cinco Ranch Junior High School Symphony Orchestra - Katy, TX; Ms. Catherine Urban

Lassiter High School Chamber I Orchestra - Marietta, GA; Ms. Carol Doemel

Ravenwood High School Honors Chamber Orchestra - Brentwood, TN; Ms. Cassandra Brosvik

Seven Lakes Junior High School Honors Orchestra - Katy, TX; Ms. Jennifer Gingell

Sandy Feldstein National Percussion Festival

Birdville High School Percussion Ensemble - North Richland Hills, TX; Mr. James Figueredo

Edmond North High School Percussion Ensemble - Edmond, OK; Mr. Ben Conrady

Evanston Township High School Percussion Ensemble - Evanston, IL; Mr. Matt Bufis

Grain Valley High School Percussion Ensemble - Grain Valley, MO; Mr. David Gronneberg

Keller Central High School Percussion Ensemble - Fort Worth, TX; Mr. Matt Stephens

Permian High School Percussion Project - Odessa, TX; Mr. John Carroll

San Marcos High School Percussion Ensemble - San Marcos, CA; Mr. Matthew Armstrong

Spartanburg High School Percussion Ensemble - Spartanburg, SC; Mr. Matthew McDaniel

Woodland High School Percussion Ensemble - Stockbridge, GA; Mr. Corey Fair

Yorktown High School Percussion Ensemble - Arlington, VA; Mr. Brian Bersh

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National Concert Band Festival - Middle School Bands

Argyle Middle School Honor Winds - Argyle, TX; Mr. Evan Fletcher
Berry Miller Junior High School Honors Band - Pearland, TX; Mr. Chris Bennett
Cooper Middle School Symphonic Band - McLean, VA; Mr. Matthew Baker
Crossroads South Middle School Wind Ensemble - Monmouth Junction, NJ; Mr. Sergio Fossa
Kaimuki Middle School Symphonic Winds - Honolulu, HI; Ms. Susan Ochi-Onishi
Lynn Lucas Middle School Honor Band - Willis, TX; Ms. Emily Hicks
Sartartia Middle School Wind Ensemble - Sugar Land, TX; Ms. Julieanne Amos
Trinity Springs Middle School Wind Ensemble - Fort Worth, TX; Mr. Dean Surface

High School – Featured Bands

Bentonville High School Wind Symphony - Bentonville, AR; Mr. Timothy Hendrix
Blue Springs South High School Wind Symphony - Blue Springs, MO; Mr. Kenny Hansen
College Park High School Wind Ensemble - The Woodlands, TX; Mr. Jeffrey Gorrington
Edmond North High School Wind Ensemble - Edmond, OK; Mr. Greg Mangus
Evanston Township High School Wind Symphony - Evanston, IL; Mr. Matthew Bufis
Keller Central High School Wind Ensemble - Fort Worth, TX; Mr. Kevin McNulty
Lakeland Senior High School Wind Symphony - Lakeland, FL; Mr. Zachary Murdock
Mill Creek High School Wind Ensemble - Hoschton, GA; Mr. Erik Mason
Mountain Ridge High School Wind Ensemble - Glendale, AZ; Mr. Aaron Vogel
North Hardin High School Wind Symphony - Radcliff, KY; Mr. Brian Froedge
Oconomowoc High School Wind Symphony - Oconomowoc, WI; Mr. Michael Krofta
Oswego High School Wind Symphony - Oswego, IL; Ms. Stephanie San Roman
Permian High School Symphonic Band - Odessa, TX; Mr. Jeff Whitaker
San Marcos High School Wind Symphony - San Marcos, CA; Mr. Geoffrey Radant
William Mason High School Wind Symphony - Mason, OH; Mr. Edward Protzman

High School – Invited Bands

Coral Reef High School Wind Ensemble - Miami, FL; Mr. Kennan Torgerson
Cypress Bay High School Wind Symphony - Weston, FL; Mr. Michael Scott
Potomac Falls High School Symphonic Band - Sterling, VA; Mr. Tim Niebergall
South County High School Symphonic Band - Lorton, VA; Mr. Kevin Engdahl
West Valley High School Wind Ensemble - Yakima, WA; Mr. Jeremy Freisz
Westfield High School Wind Ensemble - Westfield, NJ; Mr. Chris Vitale
Yorktown High School Symphonic Band - Arlington, VA; Mr. Brian Bersh

Honor Ensembles

The Festival also includes three national honor ensembles. The Honor Orchestra of America will be conducted by Sey Ahn, Idyllwild Music Center and perform Friday and Saturday evenings. The Jazz Band of America will be conducted by Shelly Berg, five-time Grammy-nominated arranger, orchestrator, and producer, and Dean of the Frost School of Music, University of Miami; and feature Yamaha Performing Artist Wycliffe Gordon, trombone. The Jazz Band of America will premier a piece by Todd Bashore. The Honor Band of America will be conducted by Ray Cramer, Professor Emeritus, Indiana University and will premier a piece by composer-in-residence Ryan George.

The Festival includes special guest concerts, including the National Percussion Festival Honors Concert, The University of Louisville Cardinal Singers, Chamber Music Festival Concert featuring Vandoren Emerging Artist Winners and Yamaha Performing Artists H2

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Saxophone Quartet; and the Music for All National Choir Festival Choir with the Ball State University Orchestra.

About Music for All

Since 1975, Music for All has set the standard for scholastic music ensemble performance and music education advocacy. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization, Music for All's mission is to create, provide, and expand positively life-changing experiences through music for all, working to ensure that every child in America has access to active music making in his or her scholastic environment. Music for All's advocacy efforts inspire and develop models and strategies for successful music programs, including the Advocacy in Action Awards and programs for underserved communities. Music for All draws more than 500,00 attendees each year – including more than 125,000 students – with 45+ annual events, including the prestigious Bands of America Grand National Championships and Regional Championships for marching bands, the Music for All Summer Symposium camp for students and teachers, and the Music for All National Festival for bands, orchestras, choirs, percussion and chamber ensembles. Music for All also presents affiliate regional music festivals and national student honor ensembles including the Bands of America Honor Band that will march for the fifth time in the Rose Parade® in 2021. For more information and to support the efforts of Music for All, visit www.musicforall.org.

Sponsor Information

Music for All efforts are supported through sponsorships, including current partnerships with National Presenting Sponsor: Yamaha Corporation of America; Official Uniform Sponsor: Fred J. Miller, Inc.; Official Student Travel Partner: Music Travel Consultants; Official Spirit Wear Sponsor: PepWear; Official Performance Equipment Sponsor: Wenger Corporation; Corporate Sponsors: Ball State University, Visit Indy and the City of Indianapolis, and Strategic Advocacy Partner: NAMM; Associate Sponsors: BAND the mobile app, Delivra, DANSR, Director's Showcase International, REMO, Woodwind & Brasswind. Music for All is also supported by the Indiana Arts Commission, Arts Council of Indianapolis, Ball Brothers Foundation, Lilly Endowment Inc., George and Frances Ball Foundation, Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, CMA Foundation, Nicholas H. Noyes, Jr. Memorial Foundation, Inc., and Arthur Jordan Foundation.

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